

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 021430Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7375

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LOME 0479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TO, GH

SUBJ: GHANAIAN AND TOGOLESE PRESS CONFERENCE ON EWE
REUNIFICATION

REF: LOME 0459

SUMMARY: PRESS CONFERENCE HELD 28 FEBRUARY BY GHANAIAN
AMBASSADOR TO PROTEST LOME AIRPORT DEMONSTRATION BY NATIONAL
MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF WESTERN TOGOLAND PRODUCED QUICK
RIPOSTE IN FORM OF PRESS CONFERENCE 1 MARCH BY TOGOLESE FOREIGN
MINISTER HUNLEDE, TO WHICH ALL FOREIGN AMBASSADORS WERE SUMMONED
IN NAME OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA. DESPITE HUNLEDE'S INSISTENCE THAT
DEMONSTRATION WAS TOTAL SURPRISE, HE DID NOT CONVINCE AMBASSADORS
OF GOT INNOCENCE IN AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MORNING 28 FEBRUARY GHANA EMBASSY INFORMED ALL FOREIGN
EMBASSIES IN LOME THAT IT WOULD HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AT EMBASSY
AT 1100, TO WHICH AMBASSADORS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WERE
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INVITED. CONFERENCE WAS IN FACT HELD AT THAT HOUR BY GHANAIAN

AMBASSADOR FORJOE, WITH ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR AND SEVERAL LOWER LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER EMBASSIES IN ATTENDANCE. WE SENT NO ONE, BUT FORJOE WHO IS VERY FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL COLLEAGUE, APPEARED TO ACCEPT MY SUBSEQUENT EXPLANATION THAT I DID NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE, EVEN TO EXTENT OF ATTENDING CONFERENCE, IN A MATTER OF DISPUTE BETWEEN TOGO AND GHANA. FORJOE INSISTED HE HAD HELD CONFERENCE ON OWN INITIATIVE AND NOT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS.

2. FULL TEXT OF FORJOE STATEMENT, FURNISHED BY ANOTHER EMBASSY, FOLLOWS, UNESSENTIAL WORDS OMITTED:

" ATTENTION OF EMBASSY OF GHANA HAS BEEN INVITED TO PICTURES APPEARING IN TOGO PRESS OF 26TH AND 27TH FEBRUARY, 1974 REGARDING DEMONSTRATION OF WESTERN TOGOLAND LIBERATION MOVEMENT AT LOME AIRPORT ON 24/2/74 WITH PLACARDS SOME READING: GHANA GOVT HAS BEEN MOLESTING PEOPLE OF FORMER BRITISH TOGOLAND: THEY DEMAND REUNIFICATION WITH TOGO. UNIFY TWO TOGOLANDS NOW.

" EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT NRC GOVT HAS OPENED HER DOORS WIDE TO ALL HER CITIZENS OUTSIDE TO RETURN TO HELP IN RECONSTRUCTION WORK CURRENTLY GOING ON IN GHANA. IT IS SURPRISING THEREFORE TO READ IF WELL-MEANING GHANAIS IN TOGO, WHO INSTEAD OF GOING BACK TO GHANA TO HELP, CHOOSE TO STAY OUTSIDE AND STYLE THEMSELVES AS "REFUGEES"; AND EVEN GOING TO EXTENT OF ASKING A PORTION OF TERRITORY OF SOVEREIGN AND INDIVISIBLE STATE OF GHANA TO BE CEDED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THAT WHEN WELL-KNOWN LEADERS OF SO-CALLED REFUGEES, DUMOGA AND ANTOR HELD AMBASSADORIAL POST AS GHANA'S REPRESENTATIVES IN DAHOMEY AND TOGO RESPECTIVELY THEY NEVER SAW VIRTUE IN ANY SECTION OF GHANA BEING CEDED TO A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. THEY ONLY SAW IT FIT TO MAKE THIS CALL FOR SECESSION WHEN THEY NO LONGER HELD THOSE POSTS.

"AS WHOLE WORLD IS SUFFICIENTLY AWARE, PLEBISCITE HELD UNDER UN AUSPICES IN 1956 DECIDED THAT FORMER BRITISH MANDATED TOGOLAND SHOULD FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOVEREIGN STATE OF GHANA. RESULTS OF OTHER PLEBISCITES HELD UNDER UN AUSPICES TO DETERMINE FATE OF OTHER TERRITORIES STILL APPLY. GHANA, AT THIS JUNCTURE, HAS NO INTENTIONS OF BETRAYING CONFIDENCE REPOSED IN HER BY PEOPLE OF FORMER BMT IN THAT PLEBISCITE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION OF FEW DISGRUNTLED ELEMENTS IN THAT SECTION OF GHANA CANNOT MOVE GHANAIAN GOVT TO RENEGE ON ITS WORDS.

"GOVTS OF GHANA AND TOGO HAVE BEEN MAKING ALL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND FREQUENT VISITS EXCHANGED BETWEEN GHANAIAN AND TOGOLESE HEADS OF STATE IN RECENT PAST BEAR TESTIMONY TO THAT FACT. EMBASSY WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT IN BEST INTEREST OF THESE RELATIONS FOR GRIEVANCES TO HAVE

BEEN ROUTED THROUGH TOGOLESE GOVT TO GHANAIAI GOVT IN NORMAL WAY, INSTEAD OF USING NEIGHBORING TERRITROY AS BASE TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST GHANAIAI GOVT. EMBASSY OF GHANA WOULD LIKE TO POINT IT OUT CATEGORICALLY THAT GOVT OF GHANA HAS NO INTENTIONS OF CEDING ANY PORTION OF ITS SOVEREIGN TERRITORY TO ANY NEIGHBORING COUNTRY HOWEVER MUCH IT IS PROVOKED.

"IN SPITE OF THIS INCIDENT, EMBASSY WISHES TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT GOVT OF GHANA HARBORS NO ILL-WILL TOWARDS ANY OF HER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. GHANA WISHES TO LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY WITH ALL HER NEIGHBORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF OAU AND UN CHARTERS. GHANA WOULD, HOWEVER,SWISH THAT HER NEIGHBORS RECIPROCATED GHANA'S GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARDS THEM BY CORRESPONDING INTVENTIONS AND ACTIONS ON THEIR PART"

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LOME 0479

3. TOGO-PRESSE 1 MARCH DID NOT REPORT CONFERENCE, EXCEPT VERY BRIEFLY IN EWE SECTION, WHERE NO SUBSTANCE GIVEN. PURPOSE REPORTEDLY WAS HOLD OFF PUBLICITY UNTIL GOT COULD REPLY. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1100 MARCH 1,

TO WHICH ALL FOREIGN AMBASSADORS AND THEIR "PRESS OFFICERS"
WERE CONVOKED IN NAME OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA.

4. CONFERENCE ITSELF WAS HELD BY FOREIGN MINISTER HUNLEDE
WHO SAID HE DOING SO BECAUSE TOGO DID NOT WANT OTHER COUNTRIES
TO THINK RELATIONS BETWEEN TOGO AND GHANA WERE BAD AND
THAT TOGO HAD OFFERED ITS TERRITORY FOR "SUBVERSION"
AGAINST GHANA. HE THEN READ ALOUD FINAL TWO PARAGRAPHS OF
FORJOE'S TATEMENT (PARA 2 ABOVE). FOLLOWING THIS HE GAVE LONG
EXPLANATION OF EVENTS AT AIRPORT (REFTEL), WHICH HE INSISTED
WERE TOTAL SURPRISE TO TOGOLESE AUTHORITIES, DEMONSTRATORS
HAVING SAME APPEARANCE AS ANY OTHER TOGOLESE WHO HAD COME TO
AIRPORT TO GREET WALDHEIM. HE NOTED THAT WHEN PRESIDENTS
ACHEAMPONG AND EYADEMA MET AT HO ON 18 SEPTEMBER 1973, THERE
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HAD ALSO BEEN A DEMONSTRATION, PROBABLY WITHOUT FOREKNOWLEDGE
OF GHANAIAAN AUTHORITIES. EVERYONE, OF COURSE, KNEW OF "ARBITRARY
DIVISION OF OUR COUNTRY," BUT THIS WAS NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO
DIALOGUE BETWEEN THEM. TOGO HAD NOT INSTIGATED AIRPORT DEMONSTRATION
BUT IT WOULD ALWAYS ACCEPT POLITICAL REFUGEES, AS REQUIRED
BY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, PROVIDED THEY ABSTAINED FROM
SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HUNLEDE'S WORDS SOUND ALMOST CON-
CILIATORY ON PAPER, THEY WERE DRIPPING WITH IRONY, PARTICULARLY
WHEN HE READ ALOUD FROM FORJOE'S STATEMENT. DESPITE THEM,
NOT ONE AMBASSADOR I HAVE TALKED TO HAS SLIGHTEST DOUBT THAT
DEMONSTRATORS HAD ACTIVE SUPPORT OF TOGOLESE AUTHORITIES.
DICKINSON

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